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MARCH MEETING, 1882.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 9th instant, at 3 o'clock P. M.; the President, Mr. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The record of the previous meeting was read and accepted.

The Librarian presented the monthly list of donors to the Library.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters from Mr. Arthur Lord and Professor William F. Allen, accepting the memberships to which they had been elected.

The PRESIDENT then introduced the business of the meeting with the following remarks : —

We have too often, Gentlemen, of late, been called on to open our meetings with allusions to the dead. Let us be thankful that to-day we may think only of the living. Our hearty sympathies and best wishes have been drawn to Cambridge during the last fortnight, where we would gladly have offered our felicitations to our illustrious associate, Longfellow, on his seventy-fifth birthday, which was commemorated on the 27th of February. We all rejoice in his improving health. And now we may well present our cordial congratulations to our venerable colleague, Dr. Paige, the Historian of the Town of Cambridge, whose eightieth birthday was so appropriately celebrated last evening. We welcome him here this afternoon. Nor could we have failed, had he been present, to hail with the highest respect our excellent associate and friend, the Hon. Stephen Salisbury, of Worcester, whose eighty-fourth birthday also occurred yesterday, and who presides over the American Antiquarian Society with unabated vigor and distinguished usefulness.

But I pass to other topics.

At one of our meetings last year I called attention to the portrait of JOHN HAMPDEN, now in the Executive Mansion at Washington, and gave some account of its history. At a subsequent meeting I described the portrait of LAFAYETTE, which has hung in the hall of the House of Representatives of the United States since it was painted and presented by Ary Scheffer, nearly sixty years ago.

I wish to say a few words this afternoon about another

portrait, not less historical. When I was visiting Charleston, South Carolina, a few years ago, on my way from Florida, I saw in the Charleston City Hall a full-length portrait of WASHINGTON, and learned on inquiry that it was an original portrait by Trumbull. It was in a deplorable condition, and seemed almost beyond the hope of restoration. After some conference and correspondence with the Mayor at that time, and afterward with his successor, Mr. Courtenay, the portrait was sent to Boston and committed to my care, for such treatment as should be thought prudent by the experts in such cases. After much consultation with General Charles G. Loring, the Curator of our Museum of Fine Arts, it was given into the hands of Messrs. Doll & Richards, who found it necessary to send it to New York for restoration. It has at last been returned to Boston, in as perfect a condition as possible, and may be seen at our Museum of Fine Arts. As the City Hall of Charleston is undergoing repairs, I have been requested to keep the portrait here for some months.

It is a portrait of great interest, and well worth visiting. The restoration has been accomplished with great skill, and the face fortunately required nothing but cleaning. It bears date, 1791, three years before Stuart painted his earliest portrait of Washington; and it represents Washington as a younger man than when he sat to Stuart. Trumbull, having been one of his *aides-de-camp*, was familiar with his form and features. An account of the portrait is found in the "Reminiscences of Charleston," by a former Honorary Member of this Society, Charles Fraser, of that city, who was himself an artist, and who says of it as follows:—

"The picture was painted from life, and represents General Washington in his military garb, as commander-in-chief, and, as such, is an invaluable portrait. It bears date, 1791. It gives me pleasure to be able to record, as being now, perhaps, its only repository, certain contemporary testimony of the resemblance it bore to its illustrious subject. A gentleman from Charleston, who was in Philadelphia while the portrait was in progress, told me that Colonel Trumbull, anxious for its success, requested him to call often and see it, which he did, and he assured me that the likeness was excellent; and this was afterward confirmed to me by one who was then our Representative in Congress, and who, as well as the other gentleman, had frequent opportunities of seeing General Washington. A venerable lady, the relict of a Revolutionary officer, told me that she also could fully verify, from her

own individual knowledge, all that these gentlemen had said of the likeness. After this period, age and increasing cares altered the General's appearance, besides the use of false teeth; so that when Mr. Stuart painted him in 1794, in his presidential suit of black velvet, and with powdered hair, he looked like a different person."

It is certainly a great satisfaction to me to have been instrumental in saving this portrait for posterity, and in restoring it to the city of Charleston in so much of its original beauty.

I may add that a description of this portrait, with a somewhat unsuccessful heliotype, has been included in the volume of Miss E. B. Johnson, just published by Messrs. J. R. Osgood & Co., containing an exhaustive account of all the original portraits of Washington, not omitting that of which I was fortunate enough to secure a copy for our gallery, through the kindness of Lord Albemarle and the liberality of Mr. Alexander Duncan, in 1874.

The Rev. Dr. PAIGE, thanking the President for the complimentary allusion to his birthday, said that it gave him much pleasure, in reaching his eightieth anniversary, to announce that he had just completed the preparation of a History of Hardwick, his native town.

Mr. WINSOR, in behalf of Judge Advocate Asa B. Gardner, of Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, inquired if there was any detailed account of a disturbance of the peace in Boston in 1778, at which time there was a French fleet in the harbor. The Boston papers of that date contain no reference to it.

Mr. H. C. LODGE referred to an inquiry he had received from Mr. Edward J. Lowell, now in Germany, in regard to a statement made in the memoirs of the Baroness Riedesel (pp. 48, 140) about certain barbarities alleged to have been inflicted upon the wife and daughter of Captain Fenton in Boston at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. As no reference to any such treatment can be found elsewhere, it is believed that the story was a falsehood.

The PRESIDENT read the following letter, containing inquiries, from our Corresponding Member, Dr. Moore, of the Lenox Library, New York:—

LENOX LIBRARY, NEW YORK, March 8, 1882.

. . . I have discovered an item in American medical history which appears to have escaped attention hitherto, and may interest our friend

the Mayor, or Dr. Holmes, or others among the brethren of the Massachusetts Historical Society, some of whom, I trust, will bring out from long obscurity the name of that "certain gentleman of the town of Boston," whose liberal purpose, fruitless as it seems to have been at the time, justly entitles him to honor at the hands of every disciple of *Æsculapius* as the first promoter of medical education in America, and whose record adds another to the cabinet of "first things" which are among the historic glories of Boston.

In the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, on the 7th of July, 1739:—

"Information being given to the House by the member from Worcester that a certain gentleman of the town of Boston [was] well disposed for the encouragement and support of a professor of physick within this Province, and for that good purpose would cheerfully contribute out of his own estate a considerable sum of money, provided this Court will join therein in making a grant of lands, or otherwise establish a good fund for the valuable ends aforesaid; and the same being considered;

"*Ordered*, That the members of Boston, Charlestown, Roxbury, and Chelsea be a committee to treat with the said gentleman, hear him on his proposals, and report their opinion of what may be proper to be done for the encouragement of so good a scheme." (Journal, H. of R., July 7, 1739, p. 101.)

The member for Worcester was John Chandler, Esq.,—the Colonel Chandler who was prominent for several successive years in the House. I have been unable to find any report or further action on the subject by the General Court, but with the materials at command in the Society I will not doubt the success of some research in Boston by any who may be interested.

In referring this topic to our associates in the Society, I am reminded also of my desire to know if any of the brethren can identify what must have been widely known in the early annals of New England as the "Long March," or the "Hungry March." I have met with references to it, and suppose it to have been as early as the Narragansett War, but should be glad to be instructed with authority on the point.

I regret to have lost the opportunity of seeing you here, but with all good wishes for your voyage and safe return, remain,

Yours very sincerely,

GEORGE H. MOORE.

TO MR. WINTHROP.

MR. THEODORE LYMAN asked leave to offer one or two emendations to the interesting account of the Garrison mob given by Mr. Ellis Ames in vol. xviii. of the Society's Proceedings, at pages 340 to 344.

Mr. Ames states that the Mayor could not speak with a loud voice because he "was very small around his chest and across his breast" (p. 341). As a fact, Mayor Lyman was nearly six feet tall, and was well proportioned and active. His voice was decidedly strong. Mr. Ames goes on to describe how he climbed upon a window-sill at the *north* side of the Old State House, and how he "saw Garrison appear on the north side of the street," and "come across State Street and go up the [north] steps, . . . and into the Old State House." Mr. Ames doubtless mistook some other person for Mr. Garrison, who, as is well known, was dragged by the mob, with a rope around his body, from Wilson's Lane and across the lower or east end of the building. At that point Mayor Lyman with his constables rescued him and carried him into the south door of the Old State House.

Arthur B. Ellis, Esq., LL.B., of Boston, and the Hon. Henry Morris, LL.D., of Springfield, were elected Resident Members.

The Rev. Dr. DEXTER presented the Memoir of the Rev. George Punchard, which he had been appointed to prepare for the Society's Proceedings.*

Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS announced that the first two volumes of the revised edition of the Sewall Papers were ready; also that a new edition of the Belknap Papers, with an appendix containing twenty-three additional letters of Dr. Belknap, had been printed.

Voted, That members be entitled to receive copies of these revised volumes.

The following committees were appointed in view of the approaching Annual Meeting; — to nominate a list of officers for the ensuing year, Messrs. Chase, Foote, and Warren; to examine the Treasurer's accounts, Messrs. Chase, A. Lawrence, and Lyman.

Agreeably to the recommendation of the Council, the President appointed also two committees on new volumes of the Collections; viz.: —

Messrs. Lodge, Morse, and Haynes to prepare and publish a volume of selections from the Pickering Papers; Messrs. Winsor, G. Dexter, and Jenks to publish the Trumbull Papers.

* See below, p. 262. — Eds.

The Rev. EDWARD G. PORTER exhibited a spur and a cannon ball recently dug up in Lexington in localities which leave little doubt that they are relics of April 19, 1775.

Dr. ELLIS spoke of the increase in number and importance of societies having for their object the promotion of antiquarian or archæological research, and expressed a doubt whether their multiplication might not result in too great scattering of labor and dispersion of funds.

Professor HAYNES justified the organization of the Archæological Institute of America on the ground that there was a very wide field in this department yet uncultivated, and claimed that the expeditions to Mexico, New Mexico, and Assos proved the richness of the returns which would reward such explorations.

Mr. ELLIS AMES stated that in examining files in the preparation of the collection of Provincial Laws, his colleague, Mr. Goodell, had found a paper written Jan. 30, 1792, in the hand of Robert Treat Paine, and signed by him and Increase Sumner as memorialists to the General Court with regard to an indictment brought against them for travelling on the Lord's Day, July 10, 1791, between Portland and Pownalborough, the plea of the memorialists being that the journey was a necessary one in order that as justices of the Supreme Judicial Court they might reach the latter place in season to open the court at the appointed time. It was necessary at that time for the judges to open the court on the day set, otherwise the term could not be held until the next date prescribed by law; in this instance, the second Tuesday of July of the following year. This rule was changed by the statute of 1804 (chapter 105, § 8), which empowered the sheriff of the county to adjourn the court from day to day until a judge should attend; and if more than one judge was required, the one who arrived first had power to adjourn from day to day until a sufficient number attended. On March 8, 1792, the General Court repealed the Lord's Day act then in force, declaring it null and void, and passed a new act on that subject. This repeal annulled the indictment against the judges.

To the honorable the Senate, and to the honorable the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled, this thirtieth day of January, Anno Domini, 1792:—

Humbly show Robert Treat Paine and Increase Sumner, two of the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, that on the morning of the

tenth day of July last, being Lord's Day, they, in company with Judge Cushing,* the Attorney-General, and the Clerk of the Court, set out very early from Portland in order to arrive at Pownelborough [now Wiscasset] in season to open the court there on the Tuesday following (the court at Portland not having finished till late the afternoon before); that about eleven o'clock A. M. they passed through Freeport, and were there stopped by a warden for travelling on the Lord's Day; that it was then fully and repeatedly explained to the said warden that the company thus travelling were the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Attorney-General, and the Clerk of the Court, and that it was necessary they should thus travel in order to arrive in season at Pownelborough to hold court there; that the time was short enough if the weather should continue good; and that if bad weather should arrive, or accidents take place, the court might fall through; and your memorialists considered this as a full and satisfactory answer to the warden, and proceeded on their journey; and with industry and difficulty arrived at Pownelborough the end of the afternoon of the Monday then next, and held court there the next day, according to law; notwithstanding this your memorialists have been unquestionably informed that, at the County General Sessions† held at New Gloucester, in and for the County of Cumberland, on the first Tuesday of January, 1792, complaint was made to the grand jury of the Sessions of the said travelling, as being against the law of the Commonwealth, and that they found bills against your memorialists for the same.

Your memorialists beg leave to say, that if they could suppose they had broken the said law by their said conduct, they would readily make suitable acknowledgments, pay the fine, and not trouble your honors with this representation; but being certain that they had no intention of breaking the law, and had no suspicion that they were so doing, and being well satisfied that they did not break the said law, according to the true intent and meaning of it, they think it their duty to have this cause explained and settled in a manner that will give the most satisfaction to all parties, and to the government at large. Your memorialists, therefore, beg leave to observe that the law for the due observation of the Lord's Day forbids travelling on that day, except in cases of necessity and charity; and the fine question that naturally arises here is, who is to be the judge of this necessity? The answer is conceived to be, that the traveller in the first instance must judge of the necessity. The next question is, what rules has he to judge by?

* This was Nathan Cushing of Scituate, who graduated from Harvard College in 1763, and was raised to the bench in 1790, soon after the appointment of his cousin, Chief Justice William Cushing, to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. He seems not to have been indicted by the Court of Quarter Sessions for this breach of the Lord's Day act. He died in 1812. — E. A.

† This court of General Sessions, commonly called the Quarter Sessions, was deprived of its criminal jurisdiction by the act of March 9, 1804, which jurisdiction was transferred to the Court of Common Pleas. The Quarter Sessions became thereafter, until it was abolished, a court of very small consequence. — E. A.

It is presumed that no other answer can be given, than that it is a matter of reasonable discretion, judging on the nature of the thing. In the present case your memorialists judged it necessary for the business of the government, in the exercise of their office, to travel that day. The warden and grand jury say there was no necessity. The question now is, who may reasonably be supposed to be the best judges; or will it be said that the judges shall in no case travel, even though a court fall through? If they may travel in any given case, must not they be the judges of the propriety of the particular case; or will it be said that they must use that discretion at their peril; and if a warden complains, and they are indicted, that they must neglect the duty of their office, and travel to a distant county, to learn from a jury of the Quarter Sessions whether they exercised their discretion right, the said jury having no other rule to guide them but their own particular opinion to set up in opposition to the opinion and discretion of the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court? Your memorialists conceive that business on public service has always been considered as coming within the meaning of the exception in the law expressed by the word *necessity*, and that in their present case the said warden and grand jury, if they had exercised that candor and discretion which public officers always ought to do, could but know that the distance the judges had to travel, the uncertainty of good weather, the difficulty and precariousness of a passage by water up the Kennebec River, made it necessary that they should travel on that day to prevent the court at Pownelborough falling through, where a capital trial and much other business was pending; and the warden and grand jury must have supposed that the judges viewed it in that light or they would not have travelled on that day. Your memorialists do not mean to be considered as Sabbath-breakers; they profess as much regard to that day as the Christian religion requires, and that it is very disagreeable to them to be under such necessity of travelling, and that nothing but a sense of duty to the public in the exercise of their office induces them to it; and that having acted in this particular sincerely, according to their best discretion, they are not willing (for obvious reasons) to have the propriety of their judgment determined by the opinion (circumstanced as it may be) of a jury of the Quarter Sessions; nor can they think it very consistent with the due administration of justice that they should lay at the mercy of a warden, who, under pretence of his office, without regarding the duties of it, shall undertake to prosecute them merely to gratify his caprice. Your memorialists therefore pray that the Attorney-General may be directed to enter a *nolle prosequi* on the indictments; and because your memorialists have a sincere regard to the religious observance of the Lord's Day, according to the sentiments expressed in the preamble to the act for the due observance of it (drafted by one of them), they pray the explanation of the honorable legislative body on the said law, that so your memorialists, being satisfactorily apprised, from the highest authority, of their duty in this respect, may be able to comply with it, without running the risk of

being censured in one part of the Commonwealth for an action which in another part of it would be considered as necessary, and your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

ROBERT TREAT PAINE.
INCREASE SUMNER.

[Indorsed:] { Hon. R. T. Paine,
Increase Sumner.

Mr. Sewall, }
Mr. Jarvis, } *Committee on the Warden Act.**
Mr. Jones, }

Before putting the motion to adjourn the PRESIDENT spoke as follows:—

One word, Gentlemen, before we part this afternoon. The newspapers have already announced that I am proposing to pass the coming summer abroad. And though the newspapers are not always correct in their statements in regard to others or to myself, I am bound to say that in this case they have rightly divulged my purpose. I can say honestly, however, that I am not going to Europe again for my own pleasure, or upon any impulse of my own. When I last returned home, nearly seven years ago, I earnestly hoped and firmly believed that I had crossed the Atlantic for the last time, and it is with real reluctance that I have yielded to domestic circumstances, which have rendered another voyage desirable and even imperative. I am to embark at an early day, and this is the last meeting which I shall be in the way of attending before next October or November. It would afford me the greatest satisfaction to know that I might then return to these rooms to take my seat only as your senior Resident Member, leaving the Chair, which I have so long occupied by your favor, to some younger and worthier member. But, at all events, I trust by the blessing of a good Providence to be with you again during the next winter, and to contribute in every way in my power to the honor and welfare of a Society to which I have owed so many of the highest distinctions and privileges of my life.

* Mr. Ames sent a copy of this petition, after the meeting, to Mr. A. A. Dennett, clerk of the courts for Cumberland County, Maine, and it was published in the Portland "Advertiser" for March 21. It is there stated that the files of papers of the court of General Sessions for 1792 are lost, and that the bill cannot therefore be found. But the record of the May term at Portland that year shows that the court recommended the Commonwealth's attorney not to prosecute the presentments found against the judges.—Eds.

If, during my absence, I can be of any service to the Society, or to any of its members, in the prosecution of historical inquiries, it will give me the greatest pleasure to do so, and I beg that I may be called on without ceremony or reserve. In the mean time I offer to each one of you my cordial and affectionate good-by.

The Rev. Dr. LOTHROP, in reply, assured Mr. Winthrop that he would be accompanied across the ocean with the profound respect and affection of all his fellow-members, and their best wishes for a pleasant vacation and a safe return.

[It will be remembered that at the meeting in June, 1881, Mr. Ellis Ames made some remarks concerning a duel between General Poor, of New Hampshire, and Major Porter, of Bridgewater, in the Revolutionary War (Proceedings, vol. xviii. pp. 435, 436). Other duties prevented Mr. Ames from immediately preparing his communication for the press, and it was not received by the Publishing Committee until this time. It here follows. — EDS.]

Rev. John Porter, the first minister of the north parish of Bridgewater, now the town of Brockton, was a native of Abington, graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1736, and was ordained in the year 1738, the same year that his parish was incorporated. His wife was Mary Huntington, of Lebanon, Connecticut. He had four sons: John Porter, Jr., born in 1752, who graduated at Yale College in the class of 1770; Huntington Porter, born in the year 1755; Jonathan Porter, born in the year 1756; and Eliphalet Porter, born in the year 1758. The last three graduated together at Harvard College in the class of 1777. Huntington Porter was the minister at Rye, New Hampshire, and died in the year 1844; Jonathan was a surgeon on board a ship of war, and died at sea before the close of the Revolutionary War; and Eliphalet was settled in the ministry at Roxbury, being well remembered by many of us as the predecessor of the late Rev. George Putnam, and died in the year 1833. The father, Rev. John Porter, Sr., died in the year 1802, aged eighty-seven years.

Of course Rev. John Porter, Jr., the graduate of Yale College, with his father, attended Commencement at Harvard College in 1777, when his three brothers above named graduated; and on this occasion the honorary degree of Master of

Arts was conferred upon him, the only honorary degree conferred by Harvard College that year, as may be seen by examining the *alibi* list for 1777.

On the 5th May, 1775, sixteen days after the battle of Lexington and Concord, there was an alarm at Weymouth, which was instantly reported to many towns, when the militia of those towns marched to Weymouth. When the alarm reached North Bridgewater, on a lecture-day, May 5, 1775, John Porter, Jr., was preaching for his father, and he instantly dissolved the meeting and hastened to Weymouth armed and equipped to do a soldier's duty. After graduating at Yale College he had studied for the ministry and had preached occasionally. He also taught school, the late Joseph Sylvester, Esq., of North Bridgewater, stating to the writer many years ago that he was one of his pupils.

He was resident in North Bridgewater, now Brockton, in the year 1779, when a call was made by the Continental Congress upon the State of Massachusetts to fill up her quota of fifteen battalions in the Continental army. He (John Porter, Jr.), being then twenty-seven years of age, procured the necessary authority and recruited a company in the four parishes of Bridgewater and in Easton, and at the election of officers was chosen captain by the ballots of the privates enlisted, — as was the usage in those days, — and he and his company were mustered into the regular army. He was appointed chaplain of the regiment, but retained the command of his company. The writer has several times talked with one of the privates who enlisted in Porter's company in 1779 from Easton, and with another soldier who was in the same regiment at the time of the occurrence hereinafter mentioned, both of whom stated the manner of the performance of Porter's daily routine of duty, and spoke of him as a brave man and an efficient and enthusiastic officer. He was soon promoted to the office of major of the regiment, and in the absence of the colonel and lieutenant-colonel was for some considerable time major commanding.

One extremely hot day in August, in the year 1780, the army was on a forced march in New Jersey, and the soldiers suffered much from heat and thirst; nevertheless, as orders were pressing, the officers continued to push them forward as fast as possible. About one o'clock in the afternoon Major Porter's regiment came along to a place in the road where there were some shade trees; the men were covered with sweat and dust, and they could not resist the temptation to cast themselves down in the cooling shade and take a few

minutes' rest. Shortly after, General Poor, of Exeter, New Hampshire, who was in command of the brigade, rode up and ordered Major Porter to call up his men and proceed on their march. Major Porter issued the orders given him, but not a man started in response. But a few minutes elapsed before General Poor again rode up and ordered that the regiment move forward, at the same time bestowing upon the major commanding criticisms in the presence and hearing of the soldiers of his regiment which Major Porter considered highly offensive. Addressing General Poor, he said to him that if he himself were of equal grade and rank he should "hold him responsible" for the language he had used. General Poor instantly replied that he would waive his privilege as the superior officer, and the result was that before the end of the day he was challenged by Major Porter, which challenge General Poor promptly accepted, and the duel was fought at break of day the next morning. The seconds arranged that each should stand back to back against the other with loaded pistol in hand, that each should advance five paces, fire over the shoulder at the other when the word should be given, and that they should then advance and finish the contest with swords. At the fire General Poor fell, wounded by the ball of his adversary. Major Porter, not wounded, instantly turned and drew his sword, when the seconds interfered and stopped all further proceedings. General Poor's wound proved fatal, and he died on the 8th of September following. The affair was hushed up as much as possible, but Major Porter was not long after relieved of his command. Rev. John Porter and all his family were greatly distressed by this conduct of one so near to them, and rarely made allusion to it. Indeed, it is not supposed that it was generally known among the people of the time.

Major Porter's accomplishments as an officer were widely known, and afterward he was designated as *aide-de-camp* to accompany General Lafayette, on the return of the latter to France at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. On his return home, Major Porter used to narrate to his friends here his introduction by General Lafayette to Louis XVI., King of France, and to his queen, Marie Antoinette. He subsequently moved to the small island of Curaçoa, in the West Indies, to engage in mercantile pursuits, where he probably died, though the time and circumstances of his decease were never known to his friends.

We are aware that Dr. Thatcher, in his military journal, describes the funeral of General Poor, at Hackensack, New

Jersey, about ten miles from the place where the duel was fought, and says that General Poor died of a putrid fever. But in the Report of the Adjutant General of New Hampshire for the year ending June 1, 1866, vol. ii., note at the bottom of page 339, and again on page 340, the author uses these words about General Poor: "He died Sept. 8, 1781, in the forty-third year of his age. It was reported that he died of an attack of bilious fever, but this was not true. He was killed in a duel with a French officer, and the falsehood as to the cause of his death was promulgated as a matter of public policy. . . . The truth as to his death was not promulgated until after Lafayette's last visit to America, and is not now generally known." General Poor died Sept. 9, 1780, as accurately described in Dr. Thatcher's military journal. The 6,000 French troops which arrived under Rochambeau in the harbor of Newport on July 10, 1780, had not joined the American army in New Jersey in August, 1780, and there was not then any French officer in a position to fight the duel with General Poor, and that part of the story is erroneous.

An interesting pamphlet entitled "Exeter in 1776," by Governor Bell, of New Hampshire, gives a sketch of the life and character of General Poor, born in Andover, Massachusetts, but who settled early in Exeter. The writer inquired of Governor Bell, who made search among the relatives and descendants of General Poor, and informed him that the statement of the duel with Major Porter was correct. The particulars of this duel between General Poor and Major Porter were communicated to the writer by Deacon James Alger, a very intelligent and very considerable gentleman of Bridgewater, in the month of December, 1823. Deacon Alger was the father of Rev. Horatio Alger (H. U., 1825), who was formerly settled in Chelsea and afterward in Natick, where he died in the year 1881.

Deacon Alger died about forty years ago. He was acquainted with Rev. John Porter, Sr., and knew of the duel as a part of the history of his townspeople, and when he narrated it to the writer said that what led to his telling him the story was that he had heard a day or two before a repetition of the story from a townsman who was in the army at the time. Andrew Freeman, a colored soldier, who lived to a great age and was well known to the writer, described himself as having enlisted in Porter's company from Easton when young, and narrated the duel as occurring while he was in the service in Major Porter's regiment. Samuel Bisbee,

who died in 1845, aged eighty-eight years, a man of truth and accuracy (see "New England Historical and Genealogical Register" for January, 1850, page 100), though he did not enlist under Porter, having been earlier in the service, was in the same regiment at the time of the duel, and assured the writer that he himself heard the report of the pistols shortly after daybreak.

That Major Porter, having been a preacher, should challenge a superior officer and kill him in a duel may seem strange. But duels were a very common occurrence in the army of the Revolution, and the highest officers, even the "illustrious commander-in-chief," seem to have done nothing to check them. Major Porter was said to be very high-spirited, resembling his grandfather Huntington and his family. When he became a captain in the army he had been nine years out of college without a call to settle as a parish clergyman, a circumstance very rare in that age, and one which might lead to the supposition that the people of parishes uniformly discovered something in him unbecoming a clergyman.

Why did he study divinity and often preach before he became a soldier? He was a scholar, and would of course engage in a profession. He graduated three years earlier than Aaron Burr, and might by people of the present day have been expected to engage in the profession of the law. But undoubtedly the profession of the law did not appear in his time, especially in country places in Massachusetts, to promise much consequence beyond that of a collector or scrivener. What the importance of the legal profession was in those days is doubtless well estimated and described by Hon. George F. Hoar in his able and interesting address before the Law School of Yale College at the Commencement of the year 1881.

Chief Justices Parsons, Marshall, Gibson, and Shaw, Chancellor Kent, and Mr. Justice Story had not then appeared on the bench, and it was not until many years after that Pinkney, Dexter, Webster, Choate, and others at the bar, arguing constitutional, national, and other great legal questions, magnified the profession of the law.

Being led at first to select as a profession the office of a preacher, and failing to attain early rank in that profession, and it being also a time when many distinguished men, elated by the capture of Burgoyne, were taking military promotion, he yielded to the call of his country and entered the military service. We may not readily see how his distinction as a

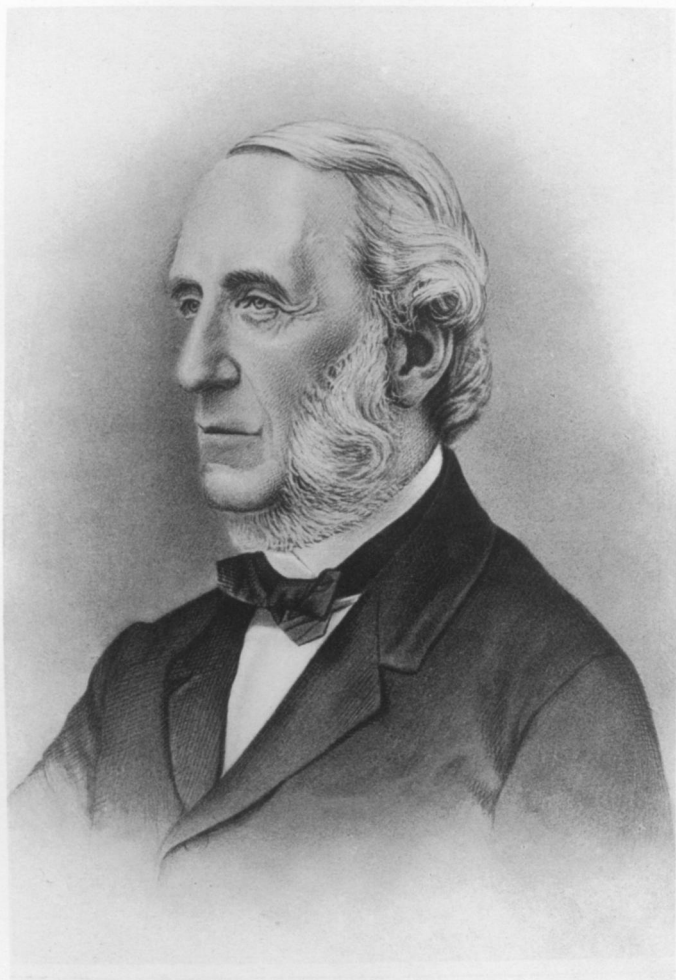
commander of a regiment changed or intensified his character. Nothing is more certainly known than the freaks of regiments and brigades of the army of the Revolution in firing upon the enemy contrary to orders. In this instance the men of Porter's regiment threw themselves down in the shade without leave, for which he was not to blame; and they refused to rise upon a second command, for which also he was not to blame. His brigadier-general used offensive language to Major Porter in the presence of the soldiers of his regiment, which was the greatest insult that could have been given to an officer; and any man knows that had just such an occurrence happened in the French or English army, a duel would have ensued.

That Major Porter well understood the duelling code is shown by his address to his brigadier as his superior officer, and there he might well suppose the affair would end. Blame arises from the brigadier waiving his privilege, when no dishonor could arise to him in his making no reply. But when the brigadier, in the presence of the major's regiment, waived his privilege the major was caught, and a challenge on his part became inevitable.

MEMOIR
OF THE
REV. GEORGE PUNCHARD, A.M.
BY HENRY M. DEXTER.

GEORGE PUNCHARD was the youngest son and eleventh child of John and Kezia [Masury] Punchard of Salem, Massachusetts, where he was born June 7, 1806. His father, who was a member of the Tabernacle Church in Salem for seventy-four years, and one of its officers for nearly forty, occupied as well a conspicuous place in civil affairs, serving in important town offices, besides being a member of the General Court, a justice of the peace and of the quorum, and a judge of the Court of Sessions; and, at his death, at the venerable age of nearly ninety-four, he was mourned by the community which had so long been served by him, as one of its noblest examples of old New England virtue. He was the great-great-great-grandson [William, John, John, James, John] of William, who is said to have been born in the island of Jersey; and who, in 1669, married Abigail Waters of Salem.

Mr. Punchard fitted for college in his native town, partly under the instruction of General Henry K. Oliver, and graduated at Dartmouth in 1826, in the same class with, and enjoying the intimacy of, the late Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. Immediately entering the Theological Seminary at Andover, he graduated thence in 1829, having among his classmates and special friends the late Drs. Nehemiah Adams and John S. C. Abbott. On the 11th of the following March he was ordained pastor of the Congregational church in Plymouth, New Hampshire, where he labored with distinguished ability and success until, after fourteen years of service, an affection of the throat, from which he never fully recovered, compelled him, after the fruitless search in Europe for restored health, to resign that office. He soon after united with Mr. Ferdinand Andrews, of Salem, in purchasing from the estate of Royal



Geo. Burdard

Porter and others the "American Traveller," then published only in weekly and semi-weekly form; and on the 1st of April following (1845), in connection with others, these gentlemen published the first number of the "Daily Evening Traveller." Eleven years subsequently Mr. Punchard sold his interest in this journal. From 1859 to 1867 he served the American Tract Society as its New England Secretary, after which he resumed an editorial position upon the "Traveller," which he retained till his death, which took place, after months of feebleness, of bronchial disease, in Boston, April 2, 1880, when he had reached the ripe age of seventy-three years, nine months, and twenty-six days. He married, July 6, 1830, Miss Williamine, daughter of William Poole of Hollis, New Hampshire, who died some three years before him, their marriage never having been blessed with children.

Whether in ministerial or secular employment, few men have ever more easily or more entirely commanded the thorough and affectionate respect of those with whom they have been brought into contact than Mr. Punchard. Scrupulously conscientious in his own deportment, he was yet always full of loving-kindness to others. It was well said of him in the "Traveller" office, that "he united the sternness of the Puritan to the mildness of the Quaker." Simple in all his tastes, and sincere in all his ways, no man ever suspected in him a tendency to turn aside, as Jerome says, "*ad superbias, pompasque mendacii.*"

While still a pastor in New Hampshire, the Ministerial Association of which he was a member had requested him to prepare an essay upon Congregationalism. Inheriting, no doubt, from his father, who had been a close, practical student of the distinguishing ecclesiastical principles of New England, a fondness for such researches, his faithful endeavor to perform the duty assigned him so disposed his mind toward the general subject as to shape his subsequent studies largely thereby. The Association requested him to publish his essay, — a suggestion which he declined, through his modest feeling that it was not worthy of such honor. The renewal of the request, however, led him to rewrite his paper, and preach it, in substance, to the people of his charge. Their urgency, added to that of his ministerial brethren, overcame his diffidence, and led him to revise and enlarge and fortify what he had written, and to have it printed at Salem in 1840, as an unassuming 12mo of two hundred and twenty-eight pages, entitled, "A View of Congregationalism," &c. This found such favor that it was three times reissued, immediately tak-

ing a place in the judgment of Congregationalists as an authority, which it has never ceased to hold.

His plough having been yoked in this field, he was tempted to try furrows in the new ground of Congregational history, and the next year (1841) printed, also at Salem, another 12mo, — this time of three hundred and eighty-eight pages, — entitled, “History of Congregationalism from about A. D. 250 to A. D. 1616.” To the revision, expansion, and continuation of this he devoted most of the leisure of his remaining life; in 1865 beginning its greatly enlarged reprint by the issue of two stout volumes, with the general title so altered as to carry the narrative down to the present time. Volume third was issued in 1867, and a fourth and fifth have been completed and published from his manuscripts by the Rev. George B. Jewett, his literary executor, since his death. This history was the great and crowning endeavor of his life, and the affectionate assiduity with which he wrought upon it is worthy of all praise. It is by far the most symmetrical, accurate, and complete work of the kind in our language. If it lack something of the original research of Dr. Waddington’s stouter volumes, it excels them in method, in accuracy of detail, and carefulness of statement, and, above all, in gentleness and propriety of spirit; while, so far as the record touches our New England shores, the American is immeasurably superior in both knowledge and judgment. Had Mr. Punchard lived still further to revise some portions of his History in view of the latest discoveries of the *primordia rerum Separativorum*, he would have left it little likely to be disturbed by further research, and in most points might safely have challenged the criticism of the future. As it is, his life-work cannot but contribute largely and usefully to the increased intelligence of the churches whose beginnings it portrays, whose principles it elucidates, and whose practice it is calculated safely to guide; while it will hand down his name and fame to an ever-widening and, let us hope, a grateful posterity.

Mr. Punchard was elected a Resident Member of this Society at the December meeting of 1870.